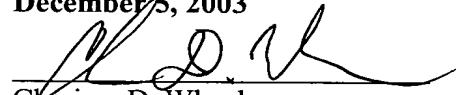


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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December 5, 2003


Charissa D. Wheeler

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced patent application, please
enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.